GOVERNMENT OF INDIA
AGRICULTURE
LOK SABHA

STARRED QUESTION NO:13
ANSWERED ON:15.07.2002
AGRICULTURE PRODUCTION BY REMOTE SENSING
ASHOK KUMAR PATEL

Will the Minister of AGRICULTURE be pleased to state:

(a) whether his Ministry is working on any project in coordination with the Department of Space for authentic forecasting of agricultural production by remote sensing;

(b) if so, the details thereof; and

(c) the time by which the project is likely to be completed and results achieved?

Answer

MINISTER OF AGRICULTURE (SHRI AJIT SINGH)

(a) to (c): A statement is laid on the Table of the House.

STATEMENT REFFERED TO IN REPLY TO PARTS (a) TO (c) OF LOK SABHA STARRED QUESTION NO.13 DUE FOR REPLY ON 15TH JULY, 2002.

(a) to (c): Yes, Sir. The Ministry of Agriculture is regularly interacting with the Department of Space for the development of remote sensing applications in agriculture. A project known as the Crop Acreage and Production Estimation(CAPE) project is being implemented through the Department of Space since 1988. This project aims at developing and upgrading the methodology of area and pre- harvest production assessment of crops using remote sensing.

The Government is now considering to implement during the Tenth Five Year Plan a project called `Forecasting Agricultural Output Using Space, Agro- meteorology and Land-based Observations` (FASAL), an umbrella project aimed to institutionalize the diverse utilities of remote sensing for agriculture including CAPE with primary focus on crop inventory assessment. This project is also jointly conceived with the Department of Space.

The FASAL approach integrates inputs from three types of observations viz.,remote sensing, weather and field observations, providing complementary and supplementary information, to make forecasts and inferences of coverage, accuracy, and timeliness.

The project has been conceived, after developing various methods and technologies of using remote sensing data for estimating area & production for several crops under CAPE at different geographical levels.Initially, it is proposed to use/develop the technology for crop inventory assessment for eleven crops, namely, Rice (Kharif :K and Rabi :R), Jowar (K &R), Maize, Bajra (K), Jute, Ragi, Cotton, Sugarcane, Groundnut (K&R), Rapeseeds & Mustard & Wheat.To begin with, these assessments are planned at National and State levels. Other uses of remote sensing in agriculture cover land use & wasteland mapping, drought assessment, soil resource surveys, cropping system analysis, Horticulture crops coverage etc.

The FASAL project is proposed to be implemented in phases during the Tenth Five Year Plan so that it becomes fully operational by the end of the Plan.